

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Rockport Town Hall, Conference Room A

In attendance: Tom McCarthy, Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders

Guests: Barbara Goll, Yvette Proposki, Heidi Zander, Jonathan Ring, and Roberta Josephson.

Meeting opened: 1:33 p.m.

Stockholm Avenue: The Committee reviewed the attached letter from Ms. Proposki. Sanders moved to approve the installation of a new school bus stop sign at 32 Stockholm Avenue pending a site review by Parisi and McCarthy to determine the appropriate location for the sign. McCarthy seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously.

Christian Science Church: Ms. Goll and Ms. Zander discussed the need for reserved parking for church members on Sunday morning's from 10:00-11:00 a.m. The elderly and handicap members are having difficulty finding parking spaces. McCarthy explained that meters are generally not enforced until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday due to many churches in the downtown area. The police department is responsible for putting signs out for other churches. Discussion followed about the best way to manage the parking in this area. McCarthy agreed to do a site visit to the area; speak to Mike Kaplan, local business owner, and assume responsibility for this action item. The church members will monitor the success of the changes.

Squam Hill Road: Ms. Goll asked the committee to consider designating "resident only parking" by the entrance to Steel Derrick Quarry; it is currently designated as a "tow zone" area. McCarthy reviewed the history of previous problems with cars being dumped in the quarry; the "tow zone" was designated and a gate was installed. McCarthy and Parisi agreed to do a site visit and report back at the next meeting.

Seagull Street: Parisi reported safety issues when cars park on both sides of the street and too close to the corner. He asked the committee to consider designating a "no parking" zone to improve the line of site in the intersection and restrict parking to one side of the street. This street was recently repaved. Ms. Josephson agreed that the problem is due to student parking and parking during school events. Ms. Josephson also reported that the pavement is cracking and there is currently a drainage problem in the area. The committee will request clarification from the school department about underclassmen parking privileges which may be contributing to the congestion on Seagull Street. Parisi will review the drainage problem; Parisi and McCarthy will do a site visit.

Cape Ann Loop: Parisi reported on the Metropolitan Planning Organizations final report on the Route 127A/127 corridor which analyzed safety, mobility and access on the roadway. The

report addressed both pedestrian and bicyclist safety and suggested improvements. The state may work with the Towns involved and possibly provide some funding for the improvements suggested at some time in the future. Parisi stated that the report offered some helpful suggestions for problems that this committee had worked on in the past related to Five Corners, T-Wharf, Dock Square and the intersection of Beach Street and Main Street. The committee agrees to review the report; no action is needed at this time. The Board of Selectmen will be planning a transportation and parking workshop and this report will be included in the materials for that meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the January 14, 2014 Meeting: Parisi moved to accept the minutes; McCarthy seconded the motion; the vote to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting was unanimous.

Workshop Discussion: General discussion about the process to update the Traffic and Parking Regulations; master file is maintained by the Police Department. The list of proposed changes in signage will be verified against the master file and documentation prepared for the Board of Selectmen.

UPDATES:

Evans Field: Parisi plans to involve the DPW Commissioners in the discussion on the issues related to parking on Evans Way since this is the legal entrance to the field. The field improvements are being managed by the DPW Commissioners.

Oakes Lane: The Town will buy a sign for the new street North Light Lane.

Adjournment: Parisi moved, McCarthy seconded and it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:45 p.m.